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tufa surrounds, and almost blocks, the outlet, and forms a small fan below. In one case a narrow channel has been humanly cut in the deposit to lead the water into a cement tank from which periodically a few palms are watered. The surplus water overflows and is lost in the scree. Growing amongst the huge boulders are shrubs and trees, wild figs, *Ficus salicifolia*, and *F. sycamorus* being particularly common. Around the water itself maiden-hair fern and other small plants make a pleasant green garden in the rocky desolation.

At this level there is a limestone platform or shelf some 10–11 m. wide, and on the edge of this occur the outcrops of Pleistocene tufa. In the Wadi Luqrun it is a block 5 m. thick and 3–4 m. high, which is evidently but a remnant of a much more extensive deposit, for traces were detected on the walls of the great limestone overhang. Its present size and isolation are some measure of the time that has elapsed since its formation. A few badly preserved fossil leaves were found here, but also a considerable number of small cavities which, as in Kharga, are the moulds of fruits. Most of these show no structure and are therefore unidentifiable, but Mrs. E. R. Reid, who kindly examined them, found one that was certainly a fruit of a species of *Celtis*.

A climb of 50 m. or so up the scree slope to the top of the Cretaceous limestone leads over bare rock to the upper course of the wadi. In time of spate the waters must cascade in a fall over the lip. At Luqrun traces only of tufa occurred at this upper level, but in a valley east of Hureidha a much larger outcrop was found which yielded many leaves. Here, after half an hour's ride along the wadi floor, the track climbs gradually up the stony scree slope to the top of the Cretaceous limestone. A hundred metres or so from the edge a mass of tufa occurs as a terrace remnant 15–16 m. above the limestone floor. It is 4·6 m. high and rests on limestone breccia. This outcrop was particularly rich in leaves. The commonest types closely resemble figs, but without the fruits this identification cannot be assured. Some however seem identical with the *Ficus sycamorus* leaves found in the Kharga tufas,[1] and another resembles *F. salicifolia*; as both trees are still growing nearby they probably occur as fossils. Some kind of palm is certainly present and one or two other unidentified types. The shells are scarce and not well preserved. *Melania tuberculata*, *Zootecus insularis*, and a *Planorbis* were present. More abundant is the cast of a lava very similar in appearance to that found in Kharga and considered by Dr. Zeuner to be that of a dipterous insect.

The pool at the foot of the cliff was examined. It is called "El Bahr"—the sea[2]—and is a favourite bathing-place, the Badawin climbing the cliff and diving in from a considerable height. Local tradition calls it bottomless, and a weighted tape failed to touch bottom at 19 m. It would seem to be a super pot-hole, ground out through the ages by the swirling stones and water of the seasonal cascade from higher levels. It is in the shade for most of the day, and water remains all the year. The shallows around are covered with soft

[1] Gardner, "The Pleistocene fauna and flora of Kharga Oasis" (*Quart. J. geol. Soc.*, vol. xci, December 1935.)

[2] Van der Meulen and von Wissmann in 'Hadramaut: some of its mysteries unveiled' describe this place. "After energetic scrambling over fields of stone and up slopes of rock we actually arrive at El Bahr, a deep, rocky basin, full of water, with high cavernous walls, from which, after rain, the water must fall in spray into the basin."